

THURSDAY
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EAGLE TIMES

Mother gets great care at county health care facility

To the editor:

After reading some of the negative press that Sullivan County Health Care has been getting lately, I feel compelled to write about my family's positive relationship with the facility.

I don't doubt that the statistics quoted in the series about the nursing homes, and Sullivan County Home in particular, are true, but we all know that statistics can say whatever we want them to, depending on how they are presented. Most of us realize that no place is perfect for an elderly relative, sometimes least of all, home.

There is so much more to the story.

My 85-year-old mother has been in and out of SCHC (mostly in) over the past year for skilled nursing and physical therapy and has recently become a resident.

I live nearby, so I can visit her regularly.

I have gone to see her on various days, during all different shifts, alone and with other members of my family. We have always found her well taken care of, her room and the rest of the floor (Stearns 1) clean and neat, and bustling with activity.

My experience with the staff is that everyone — nurses,

nursing assistants, food servers, cleaning staff, rehab staff, activities people, social workers, financial staff and maintenance men — are all friendly and helpful to our family and treat my mother with respect and care that is above and beyond their job descriptions and (probable) pay grades. They are kind and generous and careful with her, and in fact treat her like family.

Oh, and also, they are always working hard. This is all very evident in the fact that my mother is as upset as I am about negative reports in the press regarding her new residence. I suggest that if you must publish articles that quote negative statistics about the place my mother now calls home, you at least balance out the cold facts with some real stories about what is really important — the caring, loving atmosphere that the people who work at SCHC strive to maintain for their residents, despite being understaffed, and probably underpaid.

I can never thank them enough for making easier a decision that was difficult for my family and a move that was hard for my mother. Yes, I said it, my mother. Believe me if I have complaints, they will hear about them. But for now all I can say is "thank you" to all of the employees at SCHC for being there for us.

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